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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO.  TOPIC German and Soviet Border Guard Details in the Koeppelsdorf- Sonneberg Area.

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  

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25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT  DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 7 August 1953REFERENCES  PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  REMARKS  

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1. In early July 1953, personnel of the borderguard Bereitschaft in Koeppelsdorf learned that 250 VPs would soon arrive and be quartered there. They were told that the previous border Kommandos of the Bereitschaft would be disbanded and that all soldiers would be brought to Koeppelsdorf, allegedly to avoid demoralization resulting from contacts with the border population.
2. In early July 1953, the temporary barracks buildings of the border Bereitschaft in Koeppelsdorf were completed. Billeting equipment including cots, tables, and stools arrived prior to 7 July. Since about 25 June, the border Bereitschaft in Koeppelsdorf received gasoline from the Derunapht. The gasoline arrived by truck in 200-liter barrels and was stored in a shed.

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4. Since 5 July, the Soviet kommandatura in Koeppelsdorf again numbered about 140 soldiers. Most of the soldiers who had left in conjunction with the rebellion on 17 June had returned. They were allegedly employed in a number of towns in Thuringia during the uprising. Only seven of the cars which had left returned to Koeppelsdorf prior to 7 July. Dependents who had departed were not yet back. An old type T-34 tank with 76 mm gun was parked at the Soviet installation in Koeppelsdorf on 7 July.   The soldiers of the kommandatura were employed on guard duty during the period of observation.

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